(SIGN) SCIENCE DEPARTMENT FOUR

THERE'S A STATIONARY SONAR READING IN THE CENTER OF TOKYO BAY...A METAL OBJECT IS SURFACING.

GO

IS IT A SHIP FROM THE UNDERGROUND CAVERN? IF SO, IT'S NOT A SUB BUT A SPACESHIP.

IT'S USING A VERNE-STYLE PROPULSION SYSTEM. THAT'S A WARSHIP!!

CALL OUT SHIP "TWO STARS"!! AND ATTACH A FIGHTER ESCORT!! THAT SHIP IS STRONG!!

第4科学局

HASHIME DIDN'T UNDERSTAND THE VERBAL EXPLANATION...BUT SURELY HE'LL UNDERSTAND WHEN HE SEES.

THERE'S A LIFTOFF COURSE FROM THE CAVERN DOWN THE ANCIENT GREAT TOKYO RIVER THAT EMPTIES INTO THE BOTTOM OF TOKYO BAY.

HASHIME HAS GONE TO SEE LAR?

ANOTHER WARSHIP...AND SOME SMALLER FIGURES ARE CHASING AFTER YAMORI...

IT'S THE SHIP "TWO STARS" OF THE MILLENNIAL THIEVES. NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT THERE...IT'S YAMORI AFTER ALL...

UWAH!! WHAT'S HAPPENING!? AREN'T WE INSIDE THE UNDERGROUND CAVERN!? WHO WAS IT SAID THIS PLACE IS STRONG AGAINST EARTHQUAKES!?

CALIBRATE ENERGY BALLAST!! HURRY!! INCLINE! RECONSTRUCTION! PINPOINT THE TROUBLE SPOT ON THE DOUBLE!!

DAISUKE YAMORI...UNTIL WE'VE DETERMINED WHAT TYPE OF SHIP IT IS, KEEP PLENTY OF DISTANCE TO AVOID AN UNPLANNED APPROACH.

THE "TWO STARS" HAS BEGUN A PURSUIT COURSE!! THE OTHER SHIP IS PROBABLY DAISUKE YAMORI.

THIS IS NO EARTHQUAKE. IT IS ABNORMAL VIBRATION FROM THE UNDERGROUND CAVERN!!

!? ANOTHER EARTHQUAKE? THE SHAKING IS VERY WEIRD THIS TIME.

OUT OF CONTROL...OF ALL TIMES FOR IT TO HAPPEN...WE HAVE TO STOP IT.

ゴゴゴーッ！

THE CONTROL UNIT IN THE POWER BLOCK HAS FAILED. THE POWER SYSTEM IS RUNNING OUT OF CONTROL...

ROGER!!

ORDER EVERYONE INSIDE THE CAVERN INDOORS!! UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES ARE THEY TO VENTURE OUTSIDE!!

CONTINUE MONITORING THE "TWO STARS" AS IT FOLLOWS YAMORI'S SHIP!!

ROGER

THIS PLACE ISN'T SAFE. LET'S GET OUT OF HERE...

I DON'T BELIEVE IT. THE ENTIRE CAVERN IS RISING TO THE SURFACE.

第4科学局

THE POWER ROOM IS SUPPOSED TO BE COMPLETELY SEALED...

NOTHING MAKES ANY SENSE.

YOU MAY AS WELL THINK OF THE POWER ROOM...AS A HUGE ENGINE ROOM.

ENGINE?

I GUESS THERE'S NO POINT IN HIDING IT FROM YOU.

THE ENGINE OF AN ENORMOUS SPACECRAFT.

WHAT KIND OF ENGINE?

WE'RE GOING PRETTY FAR DOWN TO GET TO THE POWER ROOM.

TO PROVIDE ENERGY FOR THE ENTIRE CAVERN IT MUST BE SOMETHING LIKE AN ELECTRIC POWER PLANT.

I CAN'T IMAGINE ANYTHING THAT COULD STOP THE POWER...THIS... IS SABOTAGE, PROFESSOR!!

WHAT NOW!? A POWER OUTAGE!?

I REALLY DON'T LIKE COMPLETE DARKNESS.

THERE ARE SHIPS ON STANDBY ALL OVER THE INTERIOR OF THE CAVERN.

I THOUGHT WE WERE IN A PASSAGE, BUT IT WAS ACTUALLY THE INSIDE OF AN ARMORED SHIP...

AS SOON AS WE CLEAR THE MOON'S ORBIT, ACCELERATE OUT OF HERE!!

THE "TWO STARS" AND ITS ESCORT MEAN TO FOLLOW US.

HAS SOMETHING HAPPENED IN THE CAVERN?

WE'VE LOST CONTACT WITH THE CAVERN!? THEY'VE LOST POWER!?

STRANGE?

CAPTAIN!! SOMETHING STRANGE!!

NO. THE ENERGY FROM THE CAVERN HAS GONE COMPLETELY SILENT. IT HAS STOPPED.

COULD THE "TWO STARS" BE JAMMING US!?

!!

IF WE REVERSE COURSE, WE'LL BUMP INTO THE PURSUING "TWO STARS"...!!

I GUESS THERE'S NO HELPING IT. SEARCHING FOR LAR WILL HAVE TO WAIT. WE NEED TO TURN BACK.

REVERSE COURSE, 180 DEGREES!!

AYE, CAPTAIN!!

IF THEY GET IN OUR WAY, WE'LL GIVE 'EM A FIGHT. TURN BACK!!

IT CAME BACK WITHOUT A GLITCH?

ENERGY IN THE CAVERN HAS RETURNED!! IT'S A CODED MESSAGE. NOTHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY...

VERY STRANGE... THAT POWER ROOM IS COMPLETELY INACCESSIBLE... SOMETHING MUST HAVE HAPPENED...

WEL-COME...I HAVE BEEN AWAITING YOUR AR-RIVAL.

!!

MIRAI!!

NO. I STILL DO NOT REALLY UNDERSTAND IT. THERE ARE SIGNS OF ENTRY BY SMALL ANIMALS.

WHAT WAS THE CAUSE OF THE BREAKDOWN? IS IT FIXED?

I GUESS THE POWER IS BACK...HMM...THIS PLACE APPEARS TO BE DEEPER THAN THE PALACE OF MACHINES.

YAMORI IS PROBA-BLY QUITE ANXIOUS, PROFESSOR...THIS HAS NEVER HAP-PENED BEFORE.

YES...THERE IS A LIFEFORM READING WITHIN THE POWER ROOM AND NOT JUST ONE, SEVERAL...

SMALL ANIMALS??

NO. IT'S SOMETHING BIGGER THAN MICE.

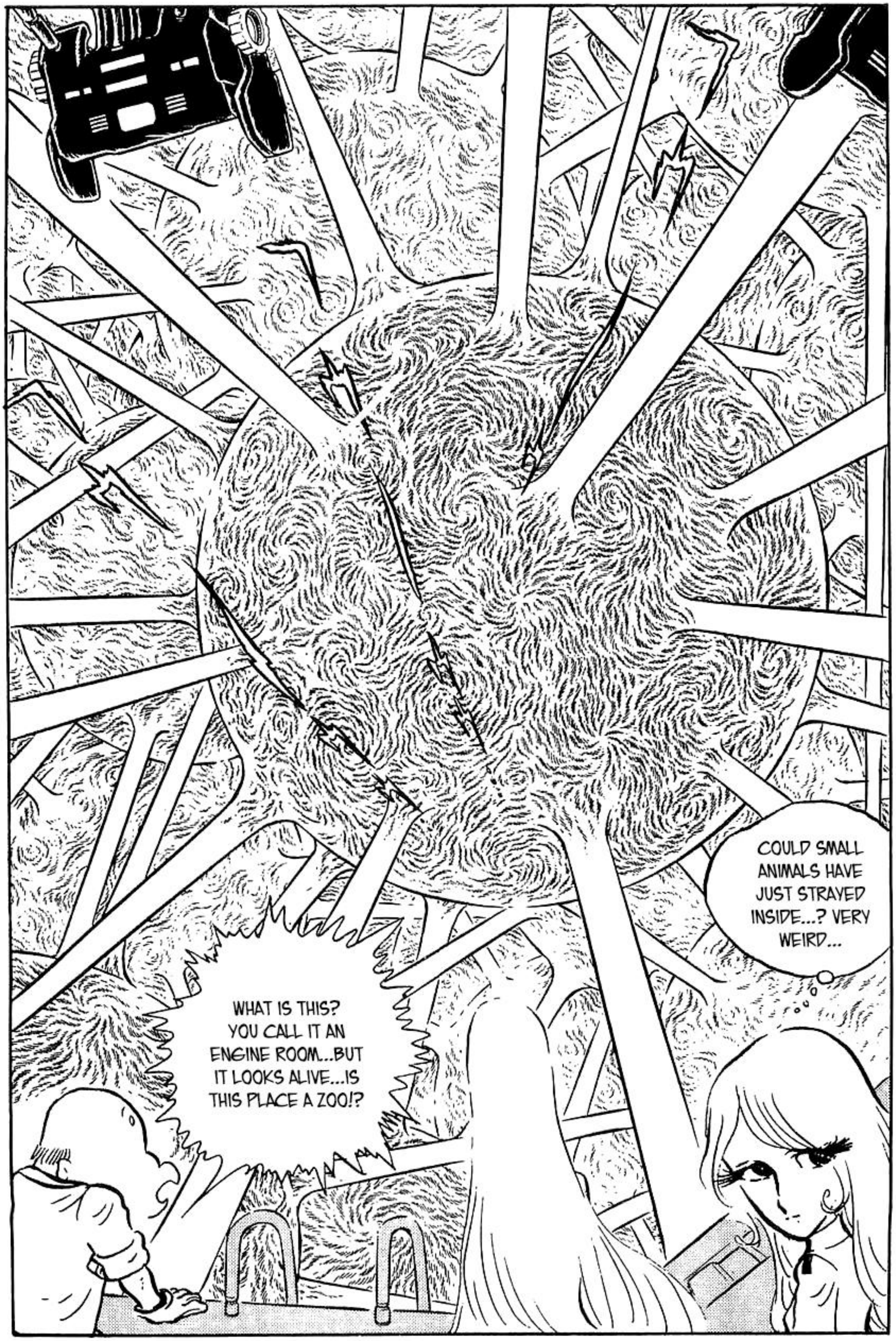
IS IT MICE?

BUT USUALLY NOT EVEN BACTERIA CAN GET IN. TO THINK THAT SOMETHING IS INSIDE THE MOST IMPORTANT AREA!!

THIS IS THE POWER ROOM, PROFESSOR. YOU ARE THE FIRST OUTSIDER TO SEE IT...

SO THIS IS THE POWER ROOM!!

!! FOOTPRINTS!!...OF SMALL ANIMALS!?


WHAT IS THIS? YOU CALL IT AN ENGINE ROOM...BUT IT LOOKS ALIVE...IS THIS PLACE A ZOO!?
COULD SMALL ANIMALS HAVE JUST STRAYED INSIDE...? VERY WEIRD...

INCREASE ACCELERATION BY 10 SECONDS!! ALL HANDS PREPARE FOR IMPACT!!

THE "TWO STARS" IS APPROACHING!!

10

5

8

7

9

6

WH- WHAT SHOULD I DO?

SHUT UP AND WATCH!! DON'T GET IN THE WAY.

RELEASE THE POWER VALVE!! FULL ACCELERATION!!

1

2

4

3

INCREDIBLE ACCELERA-TION!!

FINE. THE SURFACE CITIES OF EARTH HAVE BECOME TOO DANGEROUS. WE ARE HEADING FOR THE MOTHER SHIP. KEEP THE "TWO STARS" ON THEIR TAIL!!

SHAKEN OFF?...MEANING THEY ENTERED HYPERSPACE NAVIGATION MODE?...OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "WARP"...

THE "TWO STARS" WAS SHAKEN OFF!!

WHAT COULD YAMORI BE THINKING? COULD HE BE UNDER THE CONTROL OF QUEEN MILLENNIA!?

YOU GUYS HAVE GRAVITY SUITS, SO I GUESS YOU'RE FINE. BUT I'M JUST WEARING A SWEATER AND JEANS. HELP ME OUT HERE!!

HA HA, EVEN AFTER YOU'VE SEEN THE INSIDE OF HYPERSPACE IT'S WEIRD. IT'S LIKE SPACE HAS NO THICKNESS...WHAT'S WRONG, HASHIME? CHICKENING OUT ALREADY?

WE BREAK OUT OF WARP IN TWENTY-FIVE SECONDS.

ACCELERATION IS PAST THREE MINUTES...CURRENT VELOCITY...SIX MILLION DIMENSIONS...POWER AT EIGHTY-EIGHT PERCENT...

ARE WE NOT GETTING TO CLOSE TO LAR?

OUR POSITION IS SEVENTY MILLION SPACE KILOS PERPENDICULAR TO THE PLANE OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM. TERMINAL VELOCITY, EIGHT MILLION DIMENSIONS...POWER IS AT NINE-TY-NINE PERCENT.

GOOD. START UP THE SYSTEM!! IN A MINUTE WE'LL BE IN NORMAL SPACE VELOCITY!!

THERE ARE NO OBSTACLES AT THE JUMP EXIT POINT. JUST QUIET EMPTY SPACE.

NO. LAR AFFECTS THE HORIZONTAL PLANE OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM. THE VER-TICAL EFFECT IS FAINT.

NO ONE EVER IMAGINED A CREW MEMBER WITH A BODY LIKE YOURS. THAT'S STANDARD ISSUE, SO GRIN AND BEAR IT.

THIS SUCKS. WHY DO I ALWAYS HAVE TO WEAR THIS KIND OF THING, YAMORI?

THE SHIP WARPED VERTICALLY AWAY FROM THE PLANE OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM. YOU CAN HAVE SOME FUN DECIDING IF WE'RE JUST ABOVE IT OR JUST BELOW IT!!

WHAT'S THIS WARNING SIGNAL!?

WH-WHAT!?

THERE IS AN ENORMOUS OBSTACLE AT THE JUMP EXIT POINT!!

!?

HASHIME!!

WE WON'T MAKE IT!! WE'RE ENTERING NORMAL SPACE!!

EVASIVE MANEUVERS!! EMERGENCY BRAKING AND ALTER COURSE BY MINUS 202!!

WHAT...DID WE COLLIDE AGAINST!?

WHATEVER IT IS, IT'S METAL.

WHAT DID WE BUMP INTO? AN ASTEROID?

THE WARP EXIT POINT...EXACTLY AS PLANNED.

WHAT IS OUR CURRENT POSITION?

AN ALLOY... ARTIFICIAL...VERY SIMILAR TO TYPE FWO-109.

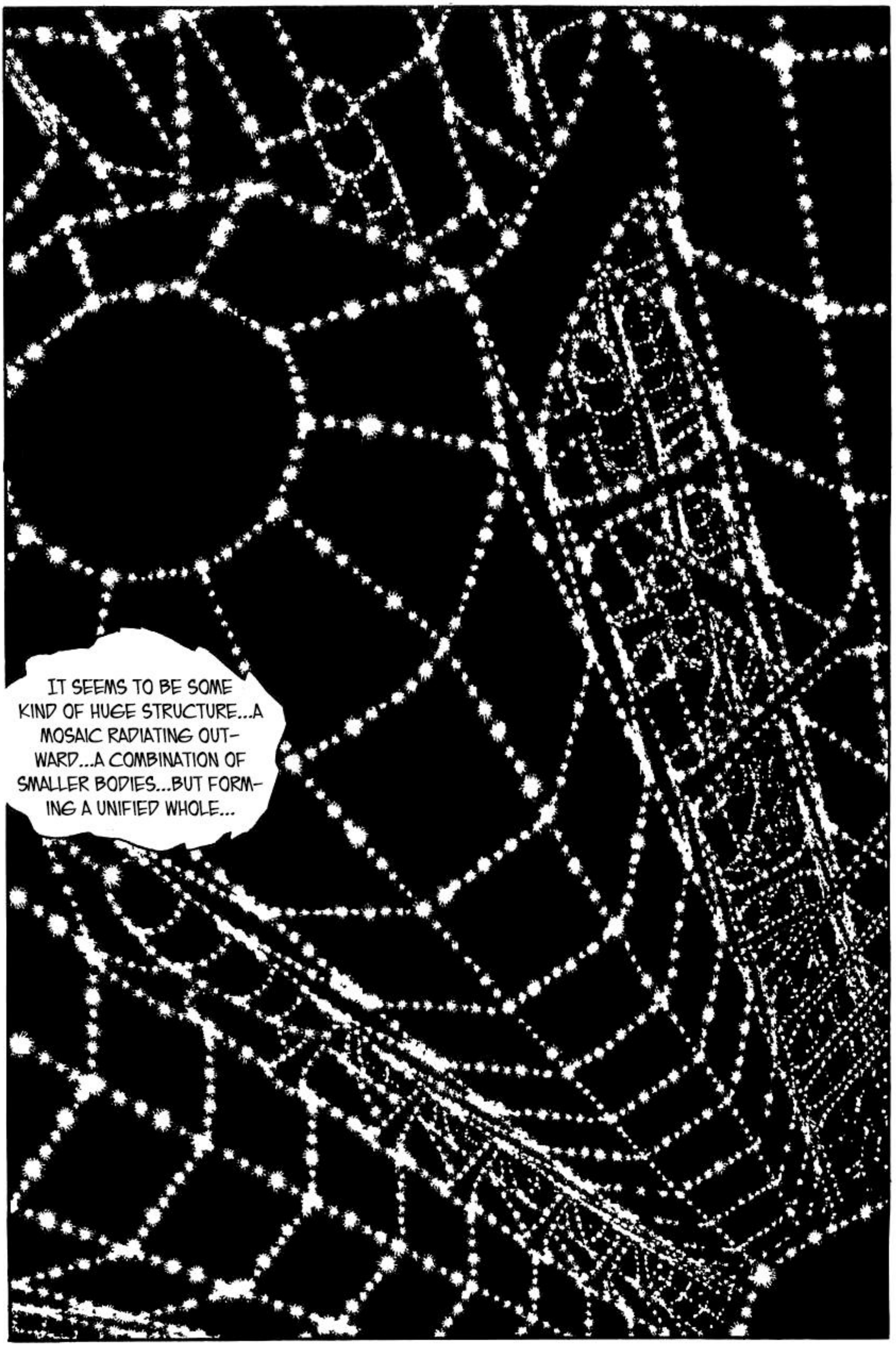
WHAT KIND? NICKEL? IRON?

ENORMOUS. IT GOES OFF BEYOND OUR SENSORS. I'M PUTTING IT ON SCREEN.

HOW BIG IS IT?

THIS...!?

LENGTH, FIVE THOUSAND METERS. WIDTH, TWENTY-FIVE HUNDRED METERS...WE ARE READING LIFEFORMS IN THE INTERIOR...


IT SEEMS TO BE SOME KIND OF HUGE STRUCTURE...A MOSAIC RADIATING OUT-WARD...A COMBINATION OF SMALLER BODIES...BUT FORM-ING A UNIFIED WHOLE...

THE MOTHER OF ALL SHIPS!!

IT'S A SHIP!!

THERE'S NO HELPING IT WITH THE SIZE OF THIS THING. IT'S MORE THAN WE'RE EQUIPPED TO DEAL WITH...WITHOUT GETTING AWAY FROM IT WE WON'T BE ABLE TO SEE IT.

WE CAN'T GET A TOTAL IMAGE.

THE SCAN MIRROR AND THE TILLORTION SERVO AMP SUSTAINED DAMAGE...

VERY CLOSE?

I'M NOT SURE...THEY ARE VERY CLOSE, SO WE CAN SEE FOR OURSELVES.

DISTANCE? WHAT ARE THEY MADE OF?

...SOME-THING...IS COMING.

MOTHER ARMS FROM THE "SPACE COMBAT COMMAND"?

SPACE PANZERS... RECOVERY VEHICLES FOR THE "SPACE COMBAT COMMAND"!!... MOTHER ARMS!!

THAT'S THE ROLE OF A RECOVERY VEHICLE...DON'T GET EXCITED...

THEY GRABBED OUR SHIP WITH THEIR ARMS!!

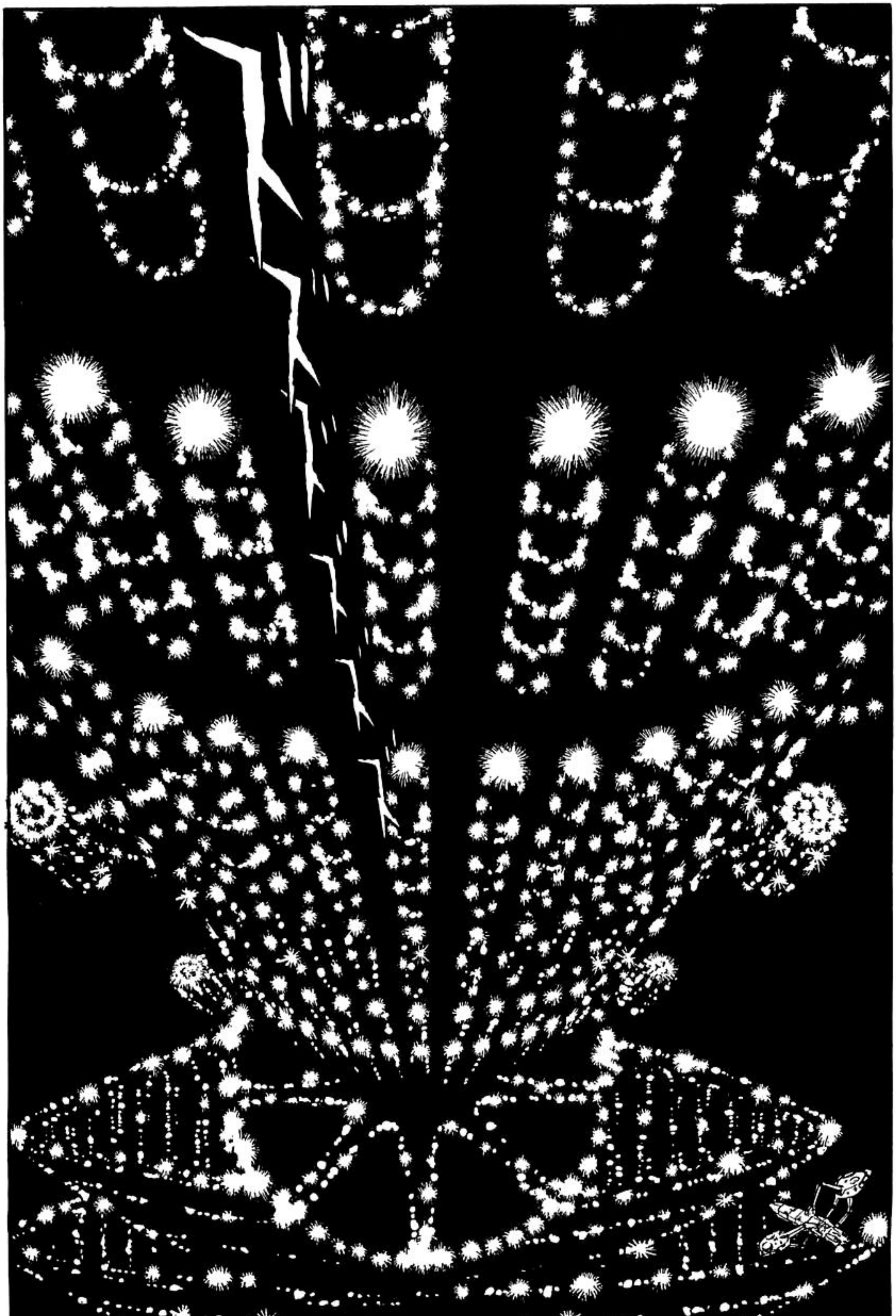
I DON'T HAVE A GOOD FEELING ABOUT THIS.

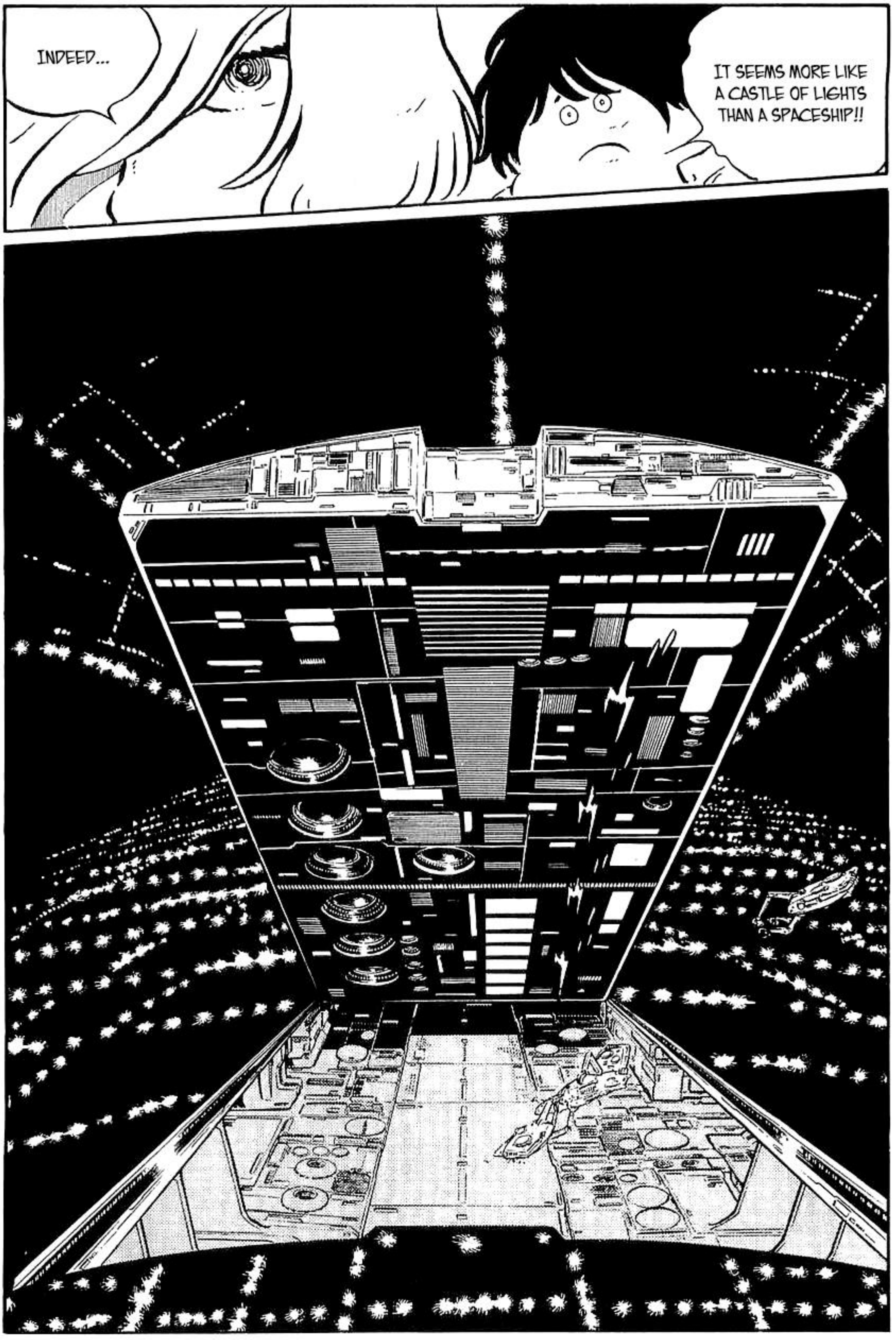
OF ALL TIMES TO ENCOUNTER THE SPACE COMMAND FLAGSHIP!!

WHAT'S THAT? IT LOOKS MORE LIKE A MONSTER THAN A SHIP.

WE'RE FINALLY FAR ENOUGH AWAY TO SEE THE WHOLE SHIP...AS FOR US, WHERE COULD THEY BE TAKING US?

TO THE COMMAND FLAGSHIP.




INDEED...
IT SEEMS MORE LIKE A CASTLE OF LIGHTS THAN A SPACESHIP!!

THERE'S A POWERFUL ENERGY SURGE IN THE EMERGENCY COMM CHANNEL!!

BZZT BZZT BZZT

LOOKS LIKE WE'RE PRISONERS OF WAR.

PUT ON YOUR UNIFORM AND COME WITH ME. NO TALKBACK!!

WOW. IT SEEMS LIKE THEY KNOW YOU, YAMORI.

THE COMMANDING OFFICER SHALL PRESENT HIMSELF TO THE SPACE COMBAT COMMAND CENTER!! YOU ARE AT LIBERTY TO COME ARMED. COME AT ONCE!!

THAT IMPUDENT GUY?

HE GOT A SHOCK FROM WHAT HE SAW IN THE ENGINE ROOM.

THE PROFESSOR WENT TO SLEEP WITH A FEVER?

SO WHAT DID HE SEE?

HOW...SHOULD I PUT IT...

THE ENGINE ROOM GLITCH WILL BE FIXED SOON, AND THEN IT WILL GO BACK TO NORMAL.

THE SURFACE OF THE LAND IS TILTING AND MAKING ME WOOZY. WHAT'S GOING ON?

SURE

HEY, YAYOI! COME OVER HERE.

JUST BE PATIENT A LITTLE LONGER.

I HOPE SO. THIS SLANTED LAND SURFACE PUTS ME OUT OF WHACK.

HEY!! ALL OF A SUDDEN IT WENT BACK TO HORIZONTAL!?

HMPH.

WARSHIP "TWO STARS" REPORTING!! WE'RE GETTING A READING OF AN ENORMOUS METAL OBJECT IN THE SPACE AT YAMORI'S WARP EXIT POINT!!

AN ENORMOUS METAL OBJECT??

THE "TWO STARS" THAT'S FOLLOWING YAMORI'S SHIP DETECTED AN ENORMOUS METAL OBJECT AT YAMORI'S DESTINATION...

OH NO!! IF THAT'S WHO I THINK IT IS...!!

IT'S TOO LATE. THE "TWO STARS" IS ALREADY IN WARP. THEY'LL BE ARRIVING MOMENTARILY.

THAT WON'T DO. STOP THE PURSUIT.

EXITING WARP IN TWO MINUTES!! WE'RE CATCHING UP TO YAMORI'S SHIP!!...

EXIT WARP!!
DECELERATION!!

"TWO STARS" HAS EXITED WARP.

. . . .

IT'S THE SAME AS WHAT HAPPENED WITH YAMORI'S SHIP...

...INCOMING MESSAGE...

I WOULDN'T CALL IT FEED. GIVE THEM THE BEST, SOFTEST MOST DELICIOUS FOOD HERE...

THE PROFESSOR IS STILL HAVING NIGHT-MARES. AS FOR THOSE CREATURE WE CAUGHT IN THE ENGINE ROOM, WHAT SHOULD WE GIVE THEM FOR FEED?

UH. I'VE SEEN SOMETHING HORRIBLE. HELP ME, HELP ME.

THEIR FINAL POSITION...PERPENDICULAR TO THE SOLAR SYSTEM... COORDINATES MINUS... ZERO ABOVE...

. . . .

THAT'S RIGHT...THE HOTLINE TO THE BOSS OF THE MIL-LENNIAL THIEVES.

SEREN?

GET ME SEREN ON THE PHONE!!

YOU'RE CALLING ME ABOUT THE "TWO STARS", RIGHT? THANK YOU...

SEREN...

YOU'RE CONNECTED.

I UNDERSTAND, SEREN...THAT'S WHY I TRIED TO AT LEAST STOP THEM.

I WAS TRANSFERRING FROM THE SCIENCE BUILDING TO THE MOTHER SHIP, SO I WAS DELAYED IN TAKING CONTROL...

SINCE WE LOST COMMUNICATION WITH THE "TWO STARS" WE CAN ONLY THINK IT WAS DESTROYED, HORRIBLE AS THAT THOUGHT IS.

AND YOU'VE LOST YAMORI'S SHIP...BUT ASIDE FROM THAT...

WE ARE ALL PREPARED FOR DEFEAT IN BATTLE...

THE MILLENNIAL THIEVES HAVE NO NEED OF SYMPATHY!!

WHO WAS ON BOARD? HOW MANY? ANYONE YOU WERE CLOSE TO SEREN?

. . .

. . .

CERTAINLY SOMETHING STRANGE HAPPENED. THE FIRST THING IS TO FIGURE OUT WHAT THEY ENCOUNTERED...

DO YOU THINK BOTH YAMORI'S SHIP AND THE "TWO STARS" WERE DESTROYED?

JUST NOW HASHIME IS A JUMBLE OF KNOWLEDGE...

YAMORI IS QUICK ON HIS FEET, AND SO IS HASHIME...

EMIGRATION? WHERE TO!?

ESCAPE... EMIGRATION... ABANDONING EARTH...

THE ELITES OF ALL COUNTRIES HAVE BEGUN TO ESCAPE.

THE LAR EFFECT IS RAGING ON UNABATED...THERE IS NO SAFE PLACE ON EARTH'S SURFACE.

REPAIRS ARE NOW COMPLETE IN THE ENGINE ROOM. WE CAN LIFTOFF WHENEVER YOU ARE READY.

I SEE...